FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VIII, No. 5 — May, 1948 — Price 5 Cents

ATC VOTE SET; AFL ON SKIDS

Acting at last after long FTA pressure, the National Labor Relations Board this week set an election at the American Tobacco Company's Charleston, S. C., plant, to be held within 30 days of the order, which was dated May 17.

The election gives Charleston American Tobacco workers the chance they have been waiting for—the chance to throw the disruptive, wage cutting AFL Tobacco Workers Union once and for all out of the picture.

This they will do by voting "NO" on the question "Do you wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by Tobacco Workers International Union (AFL)?" All temporarily laid off employes will be entitled to vote.

Clean-Up Time

Clean-up time has come to American Tobacco Co. workers in Charleston, S. C., Armando Ramirez, FTA vice president, said in commenting on the NLRB order setting an election at the plant within 30 days of May 17.

"Clean-up time is here," Ramirez said, "when the ATC workers in Charleston will have the chance they've been waiting for—for the chance to clean up the mess the AFL Tobacco Workers Union has been trying to create.

"Now, when the workers vote a resounding "NO" on the question 'Do you wish to be represented by the Tobacco Workers Union?' we will be able to go ahead to a new and still better FTA contract."

The NLRB order came after long months of attempted raiding by the AFL Tobacco Workers, who have tried to break through the workers' support of FTA without success.

Among the gains FTA Local 15 workers have won over the years of FTA contract are: doubling of hourly wages; raising of piece rates to $1.52 per 1,000; stopping of unjust discharges; promotions based on merit, not pull; grievance adjustment; six paid holidays; overtime pay, etc., etc.

With the AFL out of the way, negotiations will start at once for a new contract to bring a substantial wage increase; automatic upgrading; equal pay for equal work and other major improvements.

All it takes is a vote "NO" on the question, "Do you wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by the Tobacco Workers International Union, AFL?"

Like this:

SAMPLE BALLOT

MARK AN "X" in the SQUARE OF YOUR CHOICE

Do you wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by—

Tobacco Workers International Union
AFL

YES	NO
	X

HENRY A. WALLACE

FUNDS TO FIGHT WITH

By Armando Valdes, Secretary-Treasurer

American workers this year have a chance to elect a President of the United States who will fight on their side, not the bosses' side.

They have a chance to elect a man who will bring the people a new New Deal and clean out the bankers and generals now installed in Washington.

The man is Henry Wallace—and the chance to elect him depends on the workers themselves, how well they organize the campaign and, equally important, how well they finance it.

Both the old political parties—Democratic and Republican alike—have millions of dollars of corporation money behind them in the campaign for the election in November.

Workers don't have millions for their candidate. The law deliberately makes it as hard as possible for workers' organizations to take part in political action.

That rank and file support has to be mobilized to win. Political action costs money—for leaflets, radio time, mass meetings, all the thousand and one things that go with a successful campaign.

Beginning May 15, the National Labor for Wallace Committee is undertaking to raise $1,000,000 in voluntary contributions to help put Henry Wallace in the White House.

FTA is cooperating in the drive. All FTA locals have by now received a letter of instructions, together with pledge books, for this drive.

1. Each book contains coupons for monthly pledges between now and November 2, election day. Each coupon is marked for a $1.00 or more contribution for the next seven months. Each worker will be asked to make a minimum pledge of $7.00, to be paid in monthly installments. More is not only welcome but very much desired.

2. Half of all pledges are to be sent to the FTA National Office, 158 N. 20th St., Philadelphia 3, Pa., where the full amount will be sent to the National Wallace for President Committee. The National Office keeps nothing.

3. The remaining half is to be kept by the local collecting it. Be sure your local keeps this money in a separate account from other local funds. The law requires this.

4. The share kept by your local must be spent on the campaign for Wallace and other candidates on the new party ticket, or who support him.

The bosses have the millions of dollars. We have the millions of people. The people will win—with your help!

207 Wins Short Strike

A 10 day walkout, with every FTA Local 207 worker on the picketline, brought management at Hills Bros. in New York around to a reasonable point of view that resulted in a complete victory for the union.

Cause of the strike was two major beefs, the first coming over the layoff of some 69 workers. During the layoff, four foreladies were put on production jobs rather than being laid off with the others as had been the custom. This of course caused four production workers to be bumped, though normally they should have stayed on.

When the workers complained about this, the company retaliated by arbitrarily firing Rose di Crecenzo, chief steward and dynamo of the local.

That made everybody fighting-mad, and the walkout resulted.

A 100 percent turnout on the picketline and a similar attendance at membership meetings softened up this toughness considerably.

At the end of 10 days, the chief steward was back, the four unjustly laid off production workers were back—and the plant was in operation again.

What's more, management agreed to begin negotiations for a new contract. The bosses had refused even to talk about a contract renewal after the Taft-Hartley act came into force. Local members had maintained conditions, however, by action in the shop and by complete unity within the local.

Local 207, in fact, was one of the first CIO local unions to show that conditions could be maintained even when the boss did make full use of Taft-Hartley.

55 BREAKS THROUGH

FTA Local 55 broke through the wage freeze curtain this week with a new contract at the P. Lorillard ('Old Gold') plant in Middletown, Ohio.

The contract gives the workers a nine cents per hour across the board raise, and was reached after negotiations spread over the period from March 10 to April 30.

Reporting the victory, Local 55's paper the "Polar Bear" pointed out:

"The new contract provides for a nine cents per hour across the board increase for all employes and hospitalization.

"The agreement is significant because it comes on top of the U.S. Steel, General Electric and Westinghouse refusal to grant any increases at all to the CIO Steelworkers and CIO Electrical Workers Union.

"The nine cents is also the largest wage increase won by any union in this area."

Retroactive pay under the new contract will be based on the period from March 10, when negotiations opened, to the date of the actual signing of the agreement.

Other benefits include group hospitalization insurance under a plan advocated by the union for several years and only now agreed to by the company.

The contract also retained 1947 security clauses, with new points added for protection from Taft-Hartley act suits against the union. It runs for a period of 14 months from the expiration of the 1947 agreement, extending through April 30, 1949.

Based on a 40 hour week, the nine cent increase amounts to $3.60 weekly or a yearly increase of $187.20.

The day following the announcement of the contract, the local met and unanimously voted to increase monthly union dues from $1.50 to $2.00. This means a $6.00 per year increase in dues per member, which, as the local points out "is trivial in comparison to the raise."

Speaking of the dues increase, the Polar Bear said: "It was projected because of the labor crisis that is developing, a crisis that could destroy our unions if we are not fully prepared to meet these situations as they arise."

MURDER, INC.

Down in Charleston, S. C., Robert New, port agent of the National Maritime Union, was murdered in the union hall by a man who openly hated him for his support of Henry Wallace and of Negro and white worker unity.

In Chicago, picket Santo Cicardo of the Packinghouse Workers union was killed by a scab truck outside the struck Armour plant.

In East St. Louis, Ill., Ed Hucks, a Negro picket of the same union was shot and killed by a strikebreaker outside the struck Armour plant there.

In Gretna, La., FTA member Roy Cyril Brooks, also a Negro, was shot and killed in cold blood on the main street of the city. His killer, a policeman, has not been punished.

In the great cities and small towns workers are regularly arrested, beaten, fined and jailed for asking for a wage increase to help feed their families.

Peaceful political meetings are broken up by howling mobs set on the people by the press and the police authorities, back of whom stand the most reactionary employers and corporations in the nation.

How long are the American people going to endure this new version of Murder, Incorporated?

TAFT-HARTLEY DREAM

The Taft-Hartley act is operating pretty much as the workers who fought against its passage a year ago expected.

Injunctions, court orders, million dollar fines on unions and the whole police power of the state is brought to bear against the workers' demands for a living wage.

The faint-hearted and the boss-fearing leaders of some unions say we must "abide by the law of the land," sign whatever yellow-dog papers are required and hope that the employers will let our unions live.

But unions weren't built by faint-hearts. True, things were a little easier over the past few years when we had the New Deal, the Wagner act, and during the war a few government bureaus to help us.

Even at that it was never easy to build a union or win a concession from a boss. Especially was it never easy in the highly exploited and super profitable industries that FTA organizes—food, tobacco, agriculture.

Old-timers who remember the days before there was any organization in our industries know what the fight was like then. Newer members—including those who are just coming into the union—see the fight that is on us now to save our union and our living standards.

They know this fight will be won by the rank and file members, by the shop stewards and the local leaders who take the issues to the people and show them where the struggle lies.

HIT THE JACKPOT

Like to play quiz games? Want to amaze your friends with your grasp of domestic and world affairs? Ask yourself these three questions and see how your social stock goes up.

1. What candidate for President of the United States has come out for substantial wage increases for workers out of profits?

2. What candidate for President has broken down jim crow in political meetings in the South?

3. What candidate for President has come out for $100 a month social security for people over 65?

4. What candidate for, etc., has come out for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act?

5. What other candidates have come out for any of these things?

ANSWER to 1, 2, 3, 4—HENRY WALLACE.
ANSWER to 5—NONE.

FROM WASHINGTON

WHAT ABOUT CONGRESS?

By ELIZABETH SASULY

One of the questions asked by workers who may be strong supporters of Henry Wallace's program and new party is: What about Congress? If we support a new party all down the line won't we take away support from those few progressive congressmen and senators who have put up a fight for labor?

This question assumes in the first place that the New Party will run its own candidates in every instance, and that Wallace party support will never be given to an incumbent progressive congressman. This is not true. On the other hand it is equally untrue that any old party candidate who chooses to label himself a "progressive" will automatically get support from the New Party. The official Wallace pamphlet, "Facts to fight with for Wallace and the New Party" states, "No set national pattern can or should be established. Each Congressional district will decide for itself whether to endorse and support an old party candidate; whether to withhold endorsement but not campaign against; whether or not to place New Party candidates in the field."

This is perfectly clear as a statement of general policy, but let us see what are the factors that go into making a decision to support or not support an old party candidate.

Obviously it is the desire of the New Party to unite as many progressives as possible on a progressive program and behind one candidate. But "progressive" isn't just a word that anyone can adopt and call his own. Suppose you have a congressman who has in the past had an excellent record of voting for labor. Yes, suppose he met that all-important test and fought and voted against Taft-Hartley. But today he has been swept up in the general hysteria of red-baiting and war mongering and says for example, that we ought to drop an atom bomb on the Russians right away and show them who's running things. IS THIS MAN A PROGRESSIVE? My answer to that question would be **no.** All the votes a man may have cast in the past for labor aren't going to do the working people of this country any good if he now works to plunge us into war and fascism.

Well, you may say, this is an easy example. But usually every one says he is for peace. What about the congressman who voted for the Marshall plan which the Wallace party believes is leading us to war but voted right on everything else? Should we support him? I don't think this question can be answered generally for the whole country.

Now let's take a couple of specific examples and name names. This will make many of the other factors which enter into the picture clear.

Opponents of Wallace in many parts of the country are pointing to two California Representatives in Congress, Chet Holifield and Helen Douglas (both Democrats), and saying "The Progressive Party in California is running candidates against these two who have perfect voting records. This proves that Wallace wants to split the progressives. The result will be that reactionary congressmen will be elected in these two districts."

It is true that Holifield and Douglas have good records. But, **what is not generally known is that when the Progressive Party requested them to run on the Independent Progressive Party tickets they refused.** In California it is possible for any candidate to file in the primaries of all parties and to become the nominee of every party whose primary he wins. Holifield and Douglas have filed on the Republican as well as the Democratic ticket, but they would not consent to file on the Progressive Party ticket. Therefore it was necessary for the Progressive Party in California to put up its own candidates before the deadline for candidates to file.

REMEMBER THAT WHAT IS AT STAKE HERE IS NOT JUST THE 1948 election but the permanent building of a NEW PARTY. As Vice-Presidential candidate Taylor has often said, the time has come for people to stand up and be counted. And almost a half-million people in California, many of them in these two congressional districts, were counted. They signed petitions to put the New Party on the ballot. Certainly we hope that it will be possible to unite all progressives in the New Party and in the Democratic party before election time. This is something which will have to be worked out in these congressional districts.

If we are serious about building a new party, can we let situations develop in which both the Republican and Democratic congressional or senatorial candidates are campaigning against Wallace and Taylor and the New Party has no candidate in the field campaigning for the New Party's presidential slate? This is something the people in each district and state must take up seriously with the candidates.

Some progressives in the old parties will say that they can't campaign for Wallace even if they are personally for him because their own old party will then oppose them. It is perfectly possible for them to refrain from campaigning actively for any presidential candidates and run their own campaigns on the issues. This is being done in many instances. What the people who ask about Holifield and Douglas don't say, and in many cases don't know, is that there are about a dozen candidates for Congress in California who have filed for both the Democratic and Independent Party nominations.

So you see it is perfectly possible to work out a program of cooperation on which progressives in the Democratic Party and New Party can unite. But cooperation is a two-way street. The New Party has already demonstrated its strength and it will not and should not meekly fold up and support old party candidates without any guarantees as to what these candidates will do with respect to the New Party.

FTA NEWS

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

Published monthly by the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America, CIO, at 47 Walker Street, New York 13, N. Y.

Editorial Office: 20th and Race Streets, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Donald Henderson.....General President
Armando Valdes.....Secretary-Treasurer
Vice-Presidents: Lewis Bentzley, Robert Latham, Armando Ramirez - Organiz. Dir.: John Tisa
C. W. Fowler.....Editor

Subscription: $1 a year to non-members

"Reentered as second class matter Oct. 7, 1947, at the post office at New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. VIII May, 1948 No. 5

FTA Regional Director Jack Montgomery speaks at mass rally of 2,000 striking asparagus workers, members of FTA Local 7 in the area around Stockton, California. FTA President Donald Henderson is behind Montgomery. Then come Pablo Valdez, Stockton Branch Agent; Local 7 President Ray Cabanilla; Vice-President Narcisco Mariano and on far right, Chris Mensalvas, editor of FTA Local 7 News.

FTA FIELD WORKERS FIGHT OFF ATTACKS ON THEIR UNION

Five thousand FTA field workers, almost all of them Filipinos, are making labor history out in the asparagus fields of San Joaquin and Contra Costa counties, California.

They're members of FTA Local 7's Asparagus Workers Organizing Committee, and many of them go to Alaska to work the salmon catch in the summer time.

They're making history by their strike to crack one of the most exploited and toughest agricultural operations in the west—the home stamping ground of vigilantism, armed deputies and the rest of the arsenal of anti-labor employers.

The strike has been on since May 3, and the employers are deliberately letting a $15,000,000 crop go to seed—in a world desperate for food—rather than recognize and bargain with the union.

The strike is a revolt against conditions of peonage. Started originally when the growers flatly refused even to talk to the union, it quickly became an issue of fighting what amounts to a semi-slave labor setup.

Here are some of the conditions the FTA workers are fighting to change:

Asparagus field workers are paid on a "hold-back" system which allows the grower to hold back up to 50 percent of a worker's pay on condition that the worker finishes the season and meets other conditions.

If the worker has to leave the job, or if he dies, the grower keeps the 50 percent of his pay.

Workers don't get paid for all the asparagus they cut. They don't get paid for what the canners choose to call "culls" or inferior grade. At least 10 percent of all asparagus cut for the market is "culls," and at least 15 percent of all cut for canning.

Thus, in 1946, 113,000 cases of canned asparagus — 15 percent of the crop—were picked free. They were worth $564,000.

Asparagus workers haven't had a raise in rates since before the war. Furthermore, if a man out of a gang is sick, his whole group suffers because of his lost production.

There is no seniority system. Housing is extremely bad. Most camps have no electricity, no safe drinking water, no running water, no toilets, no screens.

The work is hard and the California sun is hot. The cutters go down the field at a half crouch, carrying knives with two inch blades and two foot handles. Each stalk of asparagus has to be seized with one hand, chopped with the knife.

The sheriffs and the justices of the peace have tried to make life as tough as they can for the strikers. Raids, beatings, other violence against pickets have been common.

The union has been able to stop some of the police violence, getting out an injunction in the courts, but much of the intimidation goes on. Mass evictions is another method of attempting to terrorize the workers. The threat of mass deportations against the non-citizens is also freely used.

But the FTA field workers in the asparagus areas of California don't scare. They're sticking to their strike.

To win it, they need help. Rush relief funds to: FTA Local 7, 261 S. Eldorado St., Stockton, California.

In The Locals

191 Park Workers Wi...

The strike at the Forest Home cemetery has been won. Contract gains were 10 cents an hour increase for seasonal workers, $15 a month increase for regular year around workers, time and one half for work over 40 hours a week and check-off to replace the open shop. This victory was won by the solidarity of members of Local 191.

The wage increase for seasonal workers is the first in which these workers received gains in similar amounts as steady workers. The time and one half gani has been a sore spot for over a year, when the management worked out a monthly pay which took such time and one half gain has been the workers. Now the workers have the time and one half and the monthly pay. Monthly pay is guaranteed them regardless of hours worked.

The check-off will assure a strong union. In the past the management was able to weaken the union each year with the complete open shop. Members of Local 191 chipped in $2.50 per week out of their pay to support the strike.

Gains made at other cemeteries were eight cents for seasonal and twelve cents for steady workers at Catholic cemeteries plus two paid holidays, Union Shop, five cents additional for hammer men and seven cents additional for foundation men. A pension plan is being worked out with the cemetery.

Evergreen cemetery workers received 10 cents an hour increase for steady men but no contract. Seasonal men at this cemetery do not belong to the Union. This victory came as the result of the militant program of Local 191 in the Milwaukee cemeteries.

Pinelawn workers received 12 cents an hour increase, renewal of the contract and working equipment paid for by the company such as raincoats, boots, etc.

Active in all settlements was Local 191's secretary, Clarence Seiberlich and Ben Krzewinski, chief steward, Forest Home Cemetery. Handling the finances for the work was Johnny Rajek, financial secretary of 191. Regional Director Gardner worked with the Local on program and policies.

Renew Cheese Contracts

Robert Buse announced the renewal of the contract at Cudahy Packing Company's cheese plant in Fond Du Lac. A 10 cents an hour wage increase was won. Negotiations were completed in one day after the union received the right to hold membership meetings of the workers on the job. Three such meetings were held before the settlement came. Management who refused any increase gave in when the workers' unity behind the union was shown in these meetings.

Note: Ray Conrad represented the Local in the above. He is recording secretary.

Renewal of the contract at Tolibia Cheese Co., at Fond Du Lac was completed last week. A five cent an hour increase effective on January 18th was won and three cents effective August 1st. A check-off, a no liability clause, two weeks vacation pay for workers employed over five years and other improved working conditions were made. Negotiating committee was George Landers, president, Local 341; Pat Romalia, secretary; Edwin Wohlschlegel, Alice Ruddy, Martin Hamburg and William Battistine assisted by council organizer, Robert Buse and Paul Gardner, regional director.

FTA URGES $1.00 BASE

FTA's opposition to the sellout Ball bill (S 2386) and its demands for a $1.00 an hour minimum wage without crippling exemptions were voiced to the Senate Labor Committee this week by Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly.

At the same time, support was given to Senator Thomas's bill (S 2062), even though it raises the minimum only to 75 cents an hour.

"FTA favors enactment of legislation establishing a minimum wage rate of not less than $1.00 an hour," Sasuly told the Senators.

"The cost of living today, the unusually high profit position of industry, the productivity of the American worker and the need to support purchasing power justify it."

Hitting out at Senator Ball's attempt to write regional cuts into the act, Sasuly said: "This is an issue of particular importance to the members of FTA since a large proportion of our membership is in the South, and when people talk about regional differentials they usually mean the South.

"There is no regional or national economic justification for regional differentials. Rather than reflecting regional differentials in the cost of living, regional wage differentials are the source of lower living standards that cast a blight on the areas they presume to help."

Present exemptions from overtime requirements in the act were sharply criticised in the FTA testimony, Sasuly pointed out:

"These exemptions mean dollars and cents to our members and more particularly to the unorganized workers. The difference between an expansion or elimination of exemptions is the difference between having a wage hour law or none at all as far as these workers are concerned.

"It is the difference between long hours without any overtime pay and reasonable limitations on working hours with overtime pay where overtime work is necessary."

New Pact At Calpak

Renewal of contract was won at California Packing Corporation plants at Rochelle and DeKalb, Illinois. A seven and a half cents an hour increase for regular and non-seasonal workers and one and a half cents for seasonal workers were won. FTA wages at this plant are being held down due to low wages paid at unorganized canneries in the area which are as low as 50 cents per hour. Check-off was won along with a no liability clause, three paid holidays additional making a total of four for the year and other minor contract gains.

Johnny Manus, Field Representative FTA-CIO, announced settlement of contract renewal negotiations at Armour and Company's milk plant at Bloomer, Wisconsin. Local 24 was smashed when Johnny took over his first assignment with only 10 members paying dues. A nine cents an hour wage increase was won with seven and a half cents an hour retroactive to January, 1948 giving the workers back pay checks of $50 to $60.00.

Sixty years ago North Carolina workers and farmers built a powerful Peoples Party, known as "Populists." The Populists made sweeping successes in N.C. and many other states, but foundered on the rock of race prejudice. Here Sen. Glen Taylor, Wallace's running mate, greets old-time Populist Richmond B. Garrity, again taking a lead in building a people's party in his state. Occasion was the founding convention of the new party in Charlotte, where FTA members played leading roles.

61 Signs Model Contract

A contract exactly following the FTA model agreement has just been signed by Local 61 and the Wolverine Vault Co. of Detroit, Mich.

In addition to a 20 cents per hour increase, retroactive to February 5, the workers won the union shop; one week vacation after one year, two weeks after five; strict seniority; five paid holidays and four sick leave days, cumulative and paid on separation; equal pay for equal work and no discrimination for race, creed, national origin or political belief.

Helping in the negotiations—the first for the company—was FTA Representative John Gerlach. The contract was described by FTA Research Director Joe Califf as "absolutely a model agreement." Califf ought to know. He wrote the FTA model pact on which it is based.

THE WHY & HOW OF A WAGE RAISE

Every worker — and especially every worker's wife — knows that he needs a wage raise. Prices are away up and going higher. Profits are away up and going higher. Living standards are down — and going further down every day the bosses refuse an increase.

To give our readers full information on just how sharp the wage situation is, and to arm them with the facts and figures on purchasing power, profits and living costs, FTA News in cooperation with the FTA Research and Education Department has prepared this page on the why and how of a wage raise.

REAL WAGES DOWN

("Real wages" or earnings is simply another way of saying purchasing power. Real wages are cash wages figured at the amount of food and other things the paycheck will buy, compared to a previous period.)

Since a Republican - Democratic alliance in Congress wrecked price control and OPA in June, 1946, the real earnings of workers in the food and tobacco industries have gone down sharply, although cash wages have increased.

How does this happen? A look at the figures will show.

In February, 1948, food manufacturing workers were averaging $7.45 more a week in wages than the average in June, 1946. This looks like a good showing—and would have been, had prices stayed at 1946 levels.

But Congress killed price control at the NAM's bidding and the cost of living jumped. It jumped so much that the worker's paycheck bought $2.52 worth less per week than a smaller paycheck bought in 1946. To put it another way, real wages dropped six percent between June, 1946 and February, 1948, despite an 18 percent increase in cash wages.

To put it more briefly still, the average food manufacturing worker has taken a six percent cut since OPA was killed.

And remember, there are scores of thousands of food workers below the "average." Unorganized workers, of course, are worse off than the others, because they didn't get nearly the increases won by the union in the 18 month period.

What about tobacco workers? They took a worse beating than food workers. Between June, 1946, and February, 1948, the average tobacco worker's dollar wages went up by $3.50 a week. Not so good—but it got worse after OPA was killed.

By February, 1948, the cost of living had gone up so much that tobacco workers were averaging $4.01 per week less in real wages than they were getting in 1946.

Tobacco workers took a cut of $4.01 a week. Their cash earnings were up 10 percent, but their real earnings were down by 12 percent.

How About Living Standards

Numerous budgets for working class families have been worked out by the U.S. Government and other authorities. All of them are pretty close to minimum subsistence levels —that is, the lowest possible amount a worker and his family can get by on.

The Bureau of Labor Standards of the U.S. government, for example, has worked out a budget that allows a worker one overcoat every seven years, a suit every two years, a coat for his wife every four years and four dresses a year. The food budget is fixed at 24 cents per person per meal. There is nothing in the budget for education beyond the public schools, only enough for a pack of cigarettes every other day, nothing for amusement beyond a very occasional movie.

Yet this budget, known as the BLS City Worker's Family Budget, calls for a weekly and annual income considerably higher than food and tobacco industry workers get in wages.

Another set of figures, the Heller budget, worked out for San Francisco, allows for a little (but not much) higher standard of living than the government figures.

The BLS budget calls for a weekly wage of $68.42 in Washington, D. C., and $59.36 in New Orleans, La., (the highest and lowest cost cities in the U. S.). Figures are for March, 1948.

The Heller budget calls for an average weekly wage of $74.46, for people living in San Francisco.

Now, what about average earnings in the food and tobacco industries? How do they compare with the BLS and the Heller budgets?

Workers in these two industries fell far behind the minimum budget figures.

Food workers in the U. S. averaged $18.88 less per week than the BLS budget calls for in Washington, D. C. In the tobacco industry, they fell $31.09 a week behind.

In New Orleans, La., food workers fell $9.82 a week behind the BLS minimum budget and tobacco workers fell $22.23 a week behind.

The gap between wages and the budget was even greater when compared with the figures put out by the Heller committee.

Here food workers are found to be $24.92 a week in the hole. Tobacco workers are $37.13 a week below even the meager Heller standard of living.

It adds up to one fact: food and tobacco workers' wages are far behind the minimum required for a bare standard of living.

No frills, no luxuries in these budgets—just food, some clothing, and shelter—and little enough of those.

The N. Y. Journal of Commerce speaks directly for—and to—the bosses. When it writes that 1948 profits are going to be even higher than 1947, you can bank on the truth of it. Here's a quote from the April 26 issue:

"Corporate profits may hit a new peak this year, higher than the record 1947 total, recent developments indicate."

And here's another quote, showing what the bosses' favorite newspaper believes will happen to wages:

"On the cost side, management is strongly resisting demands for a third round of wage increases. This effort will help to keep profit margins intact."

WIDENING GAP IN WAGES

Wages in the food and tobacco processing industries have always been lower than those paid in other manufacturing. This is due to the smaller extent of union organization among such workers, to the sellout tactics traditionally practiced by the AFL where they have organized, and to the fierce resistance to organization on the part of the food trust and the tobacco trust.

The gap is getting wider, despite the fact that average wages have increased in recent years. Thus, in 1939, food processing workers averaged 3.5 cents an hour at straight time hourly earnings than the average for all manufacturing industries combined.

By February, 1948, the wage gap had widened to 10.9 cents an hour —despite increases won by union organization.

The gap was much wider among tobacco workers. In 1939, the straight time hourly earnings of tobacco factory workers were 15.8 cents less than the average for all manufacturing workers combined.

By February, 1948, the average for tobacco workers was 29.7 cents less per hour than the average for other manufacturing workers combined.

This helps to explain how the food and tobacco industries have become so profitable. In 1946, for example, net profits after taxes in the food industry were $1,026,000,000—three times the pre-war (1936-39) average, 81 percent above 1945 and 140 percent above the boom year 1929.

For 1947, the complete record will show increases of 20 to 30 percent above the 1946 levels.

The tobacco trust shows a similar increase. Net profits after taxes here are expected to be 20 to 25 percent higher than they were in 1946.

But the best measure of profit is the return per dollar of invested capital. This is what the stockholders look for.

In the seven main branches of the food industry, net return per dollar of investment was 17.1 cents after paying all costs and taxes.

Nineteen of the biggest tobacco corporations averaged a 15 cents per dollar return.

That's the story of wages and profits in the food and tobacco industries.

Win Jobs, Back Wages At Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Two major arbitration victories have been won by FTA Local 22 in a decision just received under the contract which expired April 30 with the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. of Winston-Salem, N. C.

In one, Mrs. Carrie Speaks, vice-chairman of Local 22, who was fired in February for passing four packs of bad Camel cigarettes, has been ordered put back to work with back pay for time lost. In the other, Mary Major was restored to her job after a similar dismissal.

This victory, along with two others in the same arbitration hearings and three more won a few weeks ago, was seen by the workers as evidence of the value of the union.

How the company will treat Mrs. Speaks and others who won arbitration cases, now that the union is fighting under no-contract conditions, remains to be seen. But to the workers in the plant, the union's arbitration victories are a triumph for justice, and an inspiration to continue the struggle until a 1948 contract is won.

In ordering the company to put Mrs. Speaks back to work, the arbitrator said: "For a person who has some 15 years of service with the company, and service which taken as a whole appears to have been satisfactory, it would seem reasonable that so extreme a penalty as discharge would be imposed only after the fullest deliberation and only after the exhaustion of all other measures.

"The investment of 15 years labor in an enterprise is not to be taken lightly.

"A majority of the Board of Arbitration finds that Carrie S. Speaks was not discharged with 'just' and 'proper' cause in accordance with the contract.

"Having so found, we conclude that she should be restored to her position with the company without a break in seniority, and that she should be made whole restitution for wages lost from August 15, 1948, forward to the date of her reinstatement . . ."

In the same set of cases, the arbitrator ruled that two grievances of construction workers who were asked to work in the rain without protective clothing were arbitrable under the contract, which required the company to furnish "protective apparel wherever working conditions warrant." The company had refused to arbitrate the grievances of the two workers, Arnold B. Harper and James L. Carethers, but the arbitrator ruled that they must be arbitrated.

In other cases recently, Mary L. Webb, a discharged worker, was ordered reinstated to her job according to seniority, with 11 weeks' back pay. Turk Brown was granted pay for a Saturday he was sent home by the company without just cause, and Sam Brown was ordered put back on his job.

'CAMEL' WORKERS UNITE FOR NEW CONTRACT; ASK ELECTION

Demands for a 1948 contract, including a 26½-cent wage increase, were presented to the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company by a committee of Local 22 members while a crowd, singing and carrying placards, took part in a brief demonstration outside the Reynolds Building. The company to date has refused to enter upon negotiations for a new contract to replace the old one which expired April 30.

The demonstration was entirely peaceful, and union leaders emphasized that it was not a picket line or strike. The demonstration took place between shifts at the Reynolds plants.

"We appeal to the community to insist that the company fulfill its obligation to bargain with its workers. This matter can yet be settled peacefully, to the benefit of the workers and the whole city," the union said in a statement by co-Chairmen Robert C. Black and J. Henry Minor, and international representative Edwin K. McCrea.

"We call attention of the public to the fact that the company's question about the union's majority status is entirely groundless. Mass support of such a demonstration shows again what is a matter of common knowledge in the community: that the overwhelming majority of Reynolds workers support the union and its contract demands.

"In addition, we repeat the offer we have made, to submit to an election in the plant to be conducted by any impartial group."

During the demonstration, workers chanted "We want a contract!" and sang Solidarity Forever. Slogans on the demonstrators' placards read: "Reynolds Has Got It, Reynolds Can Pay It"; "All Reynolds Workers Want a Contract"; "In Unity there Is Strength;" "Quit Stalling, Meet with the Union Committee"; "We Need a Pay Raise!" "We'll Stick with Our Union"; and "We Want a 1948 Contract." One sign said, "Dear Richard: You are doing fine. Wish we could say the same. Yours truly, R.J.R. Worker."

In an open letter to the company April 17, the union said: "Local 22's demand is 26½ cents an hour increase, voted by the membership April 4, among other contract demands. We request that all or any part of the 26½ cents be granted immediately as a down payment until a new contract is signed."

The text of the union's demands follows:

1. Wage Increase—A 26½c per hour raise to every worker is a just demand and can easily be paid. Company profits were $32,000,000 last year.
2. Full Seniority Protection — Covering promotions, layoffs, transfers and recalls.
3. Stop Favoritism — End speed-up and carry automatic progressions to the top in every grade.
4. Pensions—Enough to live on.
5. Company-Paid Insurance.
6. Unemployment Compensation for Seasonal workers.
7. Protection Against Layoffs due to new machinery.
8. Overtime After 40 Hours for Seasonal workers.
9. Improved Vacation Plan.
10. Improved Grievance Procedure.

Unity + Action = Results

Reynolds is refusing to bargain with Local 22, and when the contract expired April 30 at midnight, the company thought the door to a labor-hater's paradise had opened. May 1 Reynolds put up new factory rules all over the plant, one of them saying that workers absent without permission would get a written warning the first time, lose three months' seniority the second time, six months' seniority the third time, and be fired the fourth.

They also cut pay by chopping hours down from nine to eight a day.

That night Local 22 started putting out a leaflet exposing the company's drive to whittle down the gains made by the union—and the reaction of organized and unorganized workers was so great that before the day was over the new rules were taken down by the company from every bulletin board. Rules were put back like they were under the contract.

Local 168 For Wallace

By Alex Juarez, President

At its regular membership meeting at Tolleson, Arizona, FTA Field Workers Local 168 voted to uphold the position of the International endorsing Wallace and the new political party.

A statement in Spanish analyzed Wallace's program and Truman's record. It concludes it is much easier to choose prosperity instead of depression and peace instead of war. The statement pointed out that this is the choice which Wallace offers the working people of America as compared with a future of war, depression, fear and discrimination offered by Truman and both of the old parties.

It also pointed out that Wallace is the only presidential candidate who has come out for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law; who calls for amendment to the wage-hour act with a minimum $1.00 per hour; and who calls for extension of social security to agricultural workers.

"Wallace is the only candidate who has consistently fought for equality and against discrimination and segregation," according to the statement added. "This local heartily approves of the concrete steps which he proposes for outlawing discrimination, such as passage of FEPC, anti-poll tax and anti-lynching laws."

This local pledges to register every member, his friends, relatives, and neighbors; to form Wallace for President Committees; and to work courageously and energetically for the election of Wallace and every progressive candidate.

Acme-Evans Wins

An across the board wage increase of 7½ cents an hour was won this month by Local 84 at the Acme-Evans Milling Co. in Indianapolis, Ind. The increase was won during negotiations which extended the present contract for another year, according to Alice Leslie, Local 84 reporter.

297 Signs 9th Pact

By Virginia Lee, Reporter

Members of Local 297 at the Woolson Spice Co. in Toledo, Ohio, recently won a 7½ cent an hour increase, in their ninth contract with that company. Negotiating committee members were: Pearl O'Connor, Darrel Fisher, Roy Lemle, Edna Snyder and Jenkins Williams.

Social Notes From All Over . . .

Brother Clay Likens got the surprise of his life when he reached into a can of Briggs and instead found a rat trap that snapped on a few of his fingers. Sister Ida Craft has been using this system to catch rats and doing alright, she caught three up to now, and we know that it was purely an accident that Brother Clay put his hand into the wrong can. We want to see Sister Clay continue to catch rats and Brother Likens continue to chew Briggs, so we suggest that Sister Craft mark an X on the can she puts the trap in.

from the Polar Bear, FTA Local 55.

62 Wins 7c Raise

Local 62 members at the Fuher-Ford Milling Co., Mt. Vernon, Ind., re-negotiated their contract for two-years, with a seven cent increase across the board.

FTA SCORES IN TEXAS

Wages raises of 10 to 12 cents per hour, plus other gains, were won by Local 75 at the Arrow Flour Mills Co. in Houston, Tex.

Raises are retroactive to February 28. Lowest classifications get the 12 cent increase.

EISENHOWER ON JIM CROW

General Dwight Eisenhower, now being boomed for President by self-styled "liberals" and by labor officials such as Walter P. Reuther and James B. Carey, has very definite views on jim crow in the armed forces. He thinks it's here to stay and that's the way it ought to be.

That is what General Eisenhower said about the subject when he was testifying for compulsory military training (the national CIO is officially against it) in the Senate recently:

"It has never been easy to solve. You have certain incontrovertible facts that you must walk right up to. One of them is that there is race prejudice in this country, and when you put in the same organization and make live together under the most intimate circumstances men of different races, we sometimes have trouble.

"Therefore, there has been a sort of compromise made with this problem down through the years with the army." (That's the first time this writer has heard outright jim crow called a "sort of compromise"—Ed:)

Then, after detailing this "sort of compromise" as strictly jim crow units, Eisenhower added: "I do not mean to say that I have any final answer to the problem and I believe that the human race may finally grow up to the point where it will not be a problem.

"But I do believe that if we attempt merely by passing a lot of laws to force someone to like someone else we are going to get into trouble."

Eisenhower also agreed with Senator Russel (D. Ga.) that Negro troops had a higher venereal disease and crime rate than whites, though he did not offer any statistics to prove it. He simply accepted Russel's statement that if was so, though the figures show it isn't.

This is the man that Walter Reuther, James B. Carey and other "liberals" who profess great opposition to jim crow are booming for President.

Senator Joseph Ball (R., Minn.) one of the authors of the Taft-Hartley Act and renegade unionist, issued a report on the first six months of the slave labor law that nauseated even union leaders who rushed to sign affidavits. Minority report issued by Sens. Murray (D. Mont.), Pepper (D. Fla.) and Reps. Lesinski (D. Mich.) and Kelly (D. Pa.) blasted the report and called for repeal of the law. Above cartoon is from the Machinist, published by the first big union (IAM) to crawl to the NLRB

Watch your language, Grogan!

SEE 'LEGAL FASCISM' IN MUNDT BILL

By Lee Pressman, General Council, FTA

The House un-American Committee has given clear warning of its plan to pass a law which will set up legalized fascism in the United States.

With the diabolical use of the Hitler technique of a pretended "communist plot," the Mundt bill (HR 5852) is aimed at the destruction of our democratic institutions.

Every progressive organization is threatened with reprisals, criminal penalties and complete repression. To have beliefs or thoughts in favor of peace or economic security — contrary to those of a Rankin or a Forrestal —could subject the individual to prosecution.

There is a shocking parallel between the Mundt bill and the early decrees of Hitler which prepared the way for his attempt to conquer the world for the Aryan supermen.

Recently, the Attorney General of the United States testified before the same un-American committee. He had been asked to suggest ways of speeding up the work of the committee which finds its persecution of progressives and liberals too ponderous and slow.

In response, Attorney General Clark complained that the constitution of the United States and many Supreme Court decisions forbid prosecution for mere political association or beliefs.

The first amendment to the constitution specifically prevents Congress from passing any law "abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble." The Supreme Court, in case after case, has prevented the federal government or the states from imposing criminal penalties upon individuals, or withdrawing citizenship from naturalized persons, for mere membership in a political organization.

Guilt by association has been consistently denounced by the courts as contrary to American democracy. A person could be held in violation of the law only for his individual act, but mere beliefs, thoughts or expression could not be condemned by law.

This article, especially written for FTA News by Lee Pressman, formerly general counsel for CIO and now counsel for FTA, analyzes the Mundt police state bill (HR 5852) now before Congress.

The article shows how the bill would be used to suppress all independent thought and even criticism of Congress and the government.

Read it and act. Tell your two Senators now: NO POLICE STATE IN AMERICA! DEFEAT THE MUNDT BILL!

But these democratic principles do not disturb Thomas and the members of the unAmerican committee. In their wild drive to plunge the nation into an international conflict, the voice of the democratic forces must be silenced. Fear and repression must reign unchecked. For this purpose, the legislation is drafted with devilish care.

It will be a criminal offense to knowingly and wilfully advocate the overthrow of the government of the U.S. BY ANY MEANS for the purpose of subverting the interest of the U.S. to that of a "foreign communist power."

Apparently it would be legal to plot the overthrow of the U.S. in the interest of General Franco who could not be accused of being a "foreign communist power."

But under this provision, any person supporting the progressive cause, pleading for a change in our foreign policy—away from the control of the Wall Street-military clique to that of the people—would be held to be part of the "world communist conspiracy." Nowhere is there any precise definition of what this so-called "world communist conspiracy" really is.

No longer will it be necessary to prove that force and violence are being urged. Change by any means would be sufficient—if the change in policy being urged should be contrary to the views of those in power.

Another proposal would require all so-called "communist front organizations," as well as the Communist party, to register and disclose their membership, finances and internal affairs. Where the Attorney General proceeded against an organization which refused to register, it would have the burden of proving in the hearing that it was not a "communist front."

Is there a progressive organization in the country, is there a group anywhere dedicated to the cause of peace or security or democracy that would be safe from the persecuting arm of Clark or Hoover under this bill?

An assistant Secretary of State and the chief of Intelligence of the Federal government have already stated before Congressional committees that the Wallace party is merely mouthing the communist propaganda. It probably would not take Mr. Clark too long, if fortified with the new legislation, to attempt to outlaw such a party.

The bill would make illegal any strike which would be charged as being prompted by political motives. Any strike for wages or improved conditions would be immediately called an interference with the Marshall Plan and part of the alleged "world communist conspiracy"—and therefore a criminal act.

An example of the fascist temper of the authors of the bill is the provision authorizing the Attorney General to hold without bail any alien who is being subjected to deportation proceedings until arrangements for his deportation can be concluded. This is a concrete proposal for American concentration camps. Though first aimed at aliens, the barbed wire would soon embrace citizens as well.

Today, the Wall Street-military combination, dictating the domestic and foreign bi-partisan policy of the Democrats and Republicans, fears the growing organization of the people behind Henry Wallace; they dread the increasing demands of the common folk for peace not war, for wage increases and social security not billions for armaments, for democracy not fascism.

The proposed legislation can be defeated. Every tradition of American democracy, the heritage of Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt cry out in agony at the very suggestion that such proposals may become the law of this land.

Every Congressman and Senator in Washington must be told the common people demand that this attempt to legislate fascism in the country be overwhelmingly defeated.

Aid Meat Strikers

Support of the packing house workers on strike in the nation's stock yards has been one of the main points of concentration. With the union's being attacked from every angle, this support is being given to show the solidarity of FTA members behind the wage fight and behind the preservation of democratic trade unions which bosses are out to smash. Local 194 has collected over $1,000.00 for the strike, many dozens of canned soups and Local 17 has sent in $68 for Rochelle and DeKalb.

An FTA Council was agreed upon by delegates from locals in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. The council will have the duty of servicing all locals in that area. A full time organizer will be hired through contributions from local unions assisted financially by the Regional Office. Dues will be raised to $2.00 to cover the cost of the full time organizer.

Labor disunity is being practised by the UAW-CIO in La Crosse, Wis., where they are assisting the company in smashing Local 448. The AFL Meatcutters (throatcutters to those who know them) are doing a similar job on Local 21 at Green Bay.

BEST LISTENING—UE ON THE AIR EVERY MONDAY COAST-TO-COAST

Every Monday night at 10 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) labor's only national radio commentator is on the air over the American Broadcasting Company network.

He is Arthur Gaeth, sponsored by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union as a public service to the people of the U.S.A.

Gaeth's program is something every worker, his family and his neighbors want to hear. Gaeth and the UE dodge no issues, spread no lies, indulge in no war-mongering.

Gaeth's program is unlike anything else on the radio. It brings the people to the microphone and lets them tell the story of wages, living standards, the worker's point of view on all domestic and foreign policy issues.

WARNING: you won't get rich listening to UE on the air. The program doesn't give away any Cadillacs or mink coats. But you will get a lot wiser, because Gaeth tells the truth and UE On The Air packs a punch.

Listen regularly to: **UE On The Air every Monday night, American Broadcasting Company network at 10 pm EST.**

Below are stations in areas where FTA is organized.

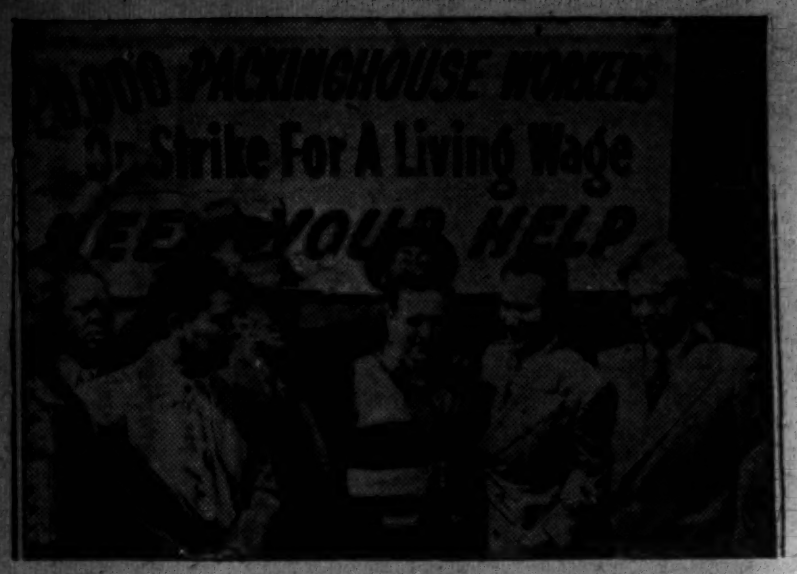
ARIZONA	
Phoenix	KPHO
Tucson	KOPO
CALIFORNIA	
Bakersfield	KPMC
Fresno	KFRE
Indio	KREO
Los Angeles	KECA
Sacramento	KFBK
San Bernardino	KITO
San Diego	KFMB
San Francisco	KGO
Santa Barbara	KTMS
Santa Maria	KCOY
Stockton	KWG
COLORADO	
Denver	KVCD
Pueblo	KGHF
DELAWARE	
Wilmington	WILM
ILLINOIS	
Chicago	WENR
INDIANA	
Evansville	WGBF
Fort Wayne	WOWO
Indianapolis	WISH
IOWA	
Des Moines	KRNT
Sioux City (also Yankton, S. D.)	WNAX
KENTUCKY	
Louisville	WINN

ARTHUR GAETH

MARYLAND	
Baltimore	WFBR
MICHIGAN	
Ann Arbor	WHRV
Detroit	WXYZ
MINNESOTA	
Minneapolis-St. Paul	WTCN
MISSOURI	
Columbia	KFRU
Kansas City	KCMO
St. Louis	KXOK
NEW YORK	
Buffalo	WKBW
New York City	WJZ
OHIO	
Akron	WAKR
Cleveland	WJW
Dayton	WING
Lima	WLOK
Toledo	WTOL
PENNSYLVANIA	
Lancaster	WLAN
Philadelphia	WFIL
Pittsburgh	WCAE
TEXAS	
El Paso	KEPO
VIRGINIA	
Pulaski	WPUV
WASHINGTON	
Seattle	KJR
WEST VIRGINIA	
Fairmount	WMMN
Huntington	WSAZ
WISCONSIN	
Milwaukee	WMAW

EVERY MONDAY
10 PM Eastern
9 PM Central
8 PM Mountain
9 PM Pacific

So your wife is going to have a baby... On your pay that's against company policy....



Henry Wallace and Senator Glen Taylor, candidates on the new party ticket for President and Vice-Prseident, join the picket-lines of striking CIO Packinghouse Workers in Chicago. Wallace and Taylor are only candidates who have supported packing strike, and other demands for wages to meet living costs.

SAVE US FAMILY FARM, FTA URGES SENATORS

An urgent plea to save the family farmer and the farm worker was made to the U. S. Senate by FTA President Donald Henderson in testimony on a long range farm planning bill this week.

The bill was S 2318, "to provide a long-range policy and program for U. S. agriculture," and the testimony was given to the Senate Agriculture committee which has the bill.

"The farmer, especially the family farmer, is exploited by monopoly just as the workers and other consumers are exploited," Henderson said.

At the same time 3,000,000 agricultural workers remain "the most underpaid and the most unfairly treated group in the country," he said, adding a plea that they be given at least the same consideration as industrial workers.

"This is true despite the fact that agricultural labor is today employed on a mass scale by the big corporation firms, which profit enormously from low wages and the lack of social protection," he said.

Henderson pointed out that small farmers would benefit from improved wages and conditions for agricultural workers, since they have identical interests and since "they themselves frequently become agricultural workers, either temporarily or through displacement from family size farms."

Henderson proposed a four step plan to give produce growers a better break with the big monopoly canneries and other firms they sell to, calling for:

1. More closely supervised Federal grading of produce to stop the present swindle of growers by the big firms through arbitrary downgrading.

2. Crop insurance to guarantee against loss through no fault of the grower.

3. General Federal supervision of contracts between growers and processors to ensure fair play.

4. Guarantees of acceptance of the grower's produce, to protect him against arbitrary refusal even after he has signed and lived up to his contract.

He also warned strongly against the NAM and Chamber of Commerce demand that 3,000,000 so-called "surplus farmers" be thrown off the land, as expressed recently in Life magazine.

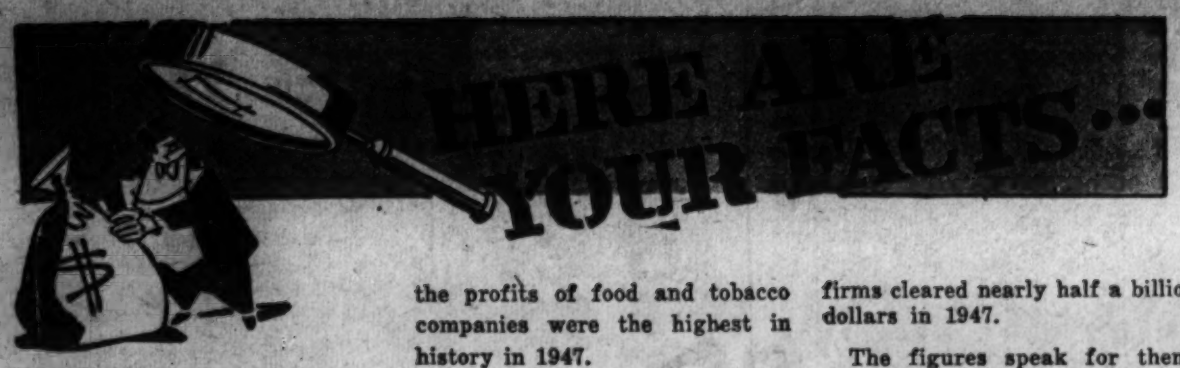
"Behind the Chamber of Commerce stand the biggest employers of labor in the country. These men have plans for the farmers who are to be evicted. They are to become a new army of displaced persons whose labor can be used to drive down wages and living standards," he said.

"They are to make up the first sections of a vast pool of hungry, unemployed people to be used as a club over the heads of the workers."

Concluding his plea for long-range planning with the democratic participation of family size farmers and agricultural workers, Henderson said:

"The family size farm is in grave danger. The pressure of inflation, of the war program, the current boom and the threatening collapse, face the family size farmer with the danger of extinction.

"Monopoly grinds down his living standards and seeks to displace him from the land. The consequences of this situation, if allowed to continue, will be a disaster not only for the farmer but also for all working people."



PROFITS, PROFITS, PROFITS

By Joseph Califf, Research Director

Elsewhere in this issue of FTA News are figures showing that the profits of food and tobacco companies were the highest in history in 1947.

Companies for which FTA members work shared in the record round of profiteering last year. The net profits after taxes of 36 FTA companies are shown below. Between them, these 36 firms cleared nearly half a billion dollars in 1947.

The figures speak for themselves. For purposes of comparison, figures are given for 1946; for 1945, the last full year of price control, and the excess profits tax; and the average for 1936-39, the four years just before the war.

PROFITS AFTER TAXES OF COMPANIES UNDER CONTRACT TO FTA

Industry and Company	Profits After Taxes 1936-39 (average)[1]	1945	1946	1947
1—CANNING:				
Alaska Pacific Salmon Co.	$ 96,000	$ —72,000 (loss)	$ —192,000 (loss)	$ 860,000
Alaska Packers Ass'n	49,000	637,000	625,000	3,208,000
California Packing Corp.	2,109,000	2,635,000	9,395,000	10,377,000
Hunt Foods, Inc.	—114,000 (loss)	530,000	5,089,000[2]	2,715,000
Libby, McNeill & Libby	3,080,000	3,882,000	4,935,000	6,499,000
Pacific American Fisheries, Inc.	136,000	534,000	1,143,000	2,034,000
2—COTTONSEED OIL, ETC.:				
Armour & Co.	7,660,000	9,173,000	28,026,000	30,950,000
Cudahy Packing Co.	—514,000 (loss)	2,505,000	6,721,000	7,122,000
Proctor & Gamble Co.	23,998,000	19,512,000	42,608,000	62,881,000
Swift & Co.	5,863,000	12,304,000	16,395,000	34,335,000
Wesson Oil & Snowdrift Co., Inc. (owner of Southern Cotton Oil Co. and Southern Shell Fish Co.)	2,424,000	2,820,000	6,728,000	14,662,000
3—DAIRY:				
Beatrice Foods Co.	1,652,000	2,955,000	5,865,000	3,472,000
Bridgeman Russell Co.	13,000	90,000	292,000	170,000
Carnation Co.	2,050,000	2,447,000	3,212,000	5,483,000
National Dairy Prod. Corp.	11,983,000	14,114,000	30,444,000	23,159,000
United Milk Products Co.	10,000	320,000	1,046,000	750,000
4—GRAIN:				
Allied Mills, Inc.	1,414,000	1,329,000	2,053,000	3,461,000
Archer-Daniels-Midland Co.	2,073,000	3,924,000	10,207,000	15,031,000
Penick & Ford, Ltd., Inc.	1,043,000	1,355,000	2,299,000	3,338,000
Ralston Purina Co.	2,491,000[3]	2,665,000	4,053,000	8,029,000
5—TOBACCO:				
American Tobacco Co.	24,546,000	19,697,000	29,887,000	33,845,000
British-American Tobacco Co., Ltd. (owner of Export Leaf Tobacco Co.)	22,221,000	14,419,000	20,049,000	22,173,000
Consolidated Cigar Corp.	842,000	1,232,000	2,223,000	2,589,000
D. Emil Klein Co., Inc.	169,000	170,000	345,000	—55,000 (loss)
DWG Cigar Corp.	679,000	443,000	1,295,000	1,133,000
General Cigar Co., Inc.	1,391,000	1,290,000	1,656,000	1,598,000
Imperial Tobacco Co.	42,629,000	36,004,000	40,510,000	59,898,000
P. Lorillard Co.	3,414,000	3,534,000	3,512,000	5,516,000
R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.	26,558,000	19,697,000	27,973,000	32,632,000
U.S. Tobacco Co.	3,613,000	2,240,000	2,198,000	2,475,000
6—OTHER INDUSTRIES:				
American Home Products Co. (owner of Duff's Baking Mix)	3,234,000	5,825,000	8,898,000	6,624,000
Anderson, Clayton & Co.	3,916,000[3]	8,638,000	21,089,000	17,248,000
General Foods Corp.	13,036,000	13,144,000	21,148,000	18,304,000
George Weston, Ltd. (owner of Southern Biscuit Co.)	562,000	1,020,000	1,496,000	1,688,000
Planters Nut & Chocolate Co.	425,000	1,401,000	962,000	971,000
Standard Brands, Inc.	10,167,000	9,576,000	13,948,000	8,119,000
TOTAL, 36 COMPANIES	224,918,000	221,989,000	378,133,000	453,284,000
PERCENT INCREASE, 36 COMPANIES, 1947 COMPARED TO:	101.3%	104.2%	19.9%	—

[1] In the case of several of the companies listed, figures for 1936-39 and 1945 are for the company's fiscal years ending between June and August.
[2] Nine months
[3] Average 1938-1941.

Its Your Hide, Brother

Big business has plans to take not a little slice, not a middling slice, not even a major slice but the whole slice of the cost of the war and arms program out of the worker's hide — and isn't ashamed to admit it.

The admission came in the pages of Business Week, organ of big business and Wall St. finance, in its April 24 issue.

"An intensive armament program would have much the same effect on the domestic economy as a shooting war. It is the size of the military budget and the army (now $22 billion) that puts the pressure on the country's economic life," the magazine said.

These are some of the high spots, in their own words:

● WAGES: "Workers would again have to shift jobs, work harder and longer. But instead of more pay for all this, everyone would have to take less."

● PRICES: "Today's appropriations will generate next year's price increases . . . Pressure on prices would be fantastic . . . You would have to chop directly into income—both profits and pay."

● FORCED LABOR: "The government would decide who works, who fights . . . This time there would be nothing left but the whip."

● STRIKES: "Another thing we'd have to do, that was not done in World War II is flatly to outlaw strikes, treat incitement to strike as treason."

● CIVIL RIGHTS: "Civil rights of all kinds would take an awful beating, of course . . . Just as in the case of strikes, all sorts of ordinarily innocent activities would become suspect . . . would be hard to distinguish from treasonable action, and so would be choked off."

● TAXES: "You would have to tax incomes at rates no one has ever thought of seriously before. You would certainly have to have forced savings."

SEES WALLACE AS LABOR'S MAN

"The gravest problem that faces the country today is the falling standard of living of the people who work for a living," Albert J. Fitzgerald chairman of the Labor Committee of the Wallace for President Committee, declared at a rally of Wallace supporters at Madison Square Garden.

Fitzgerald, who is president of the UE, declared that "millions of American union men and women, despite the vacillation or open hostility of many union leaders, intend to vote for Henry Wallace in the fall because of the Third Party candidate's recognition of this fact.

"Of all the candidates for the presidency, including those who are running in the open and those who are running under cover," Fitzgerald said, "only Henry Wallace has had the courage and the honesty to state the obvious fact that the way to beat inflation is to take the profit out of it. Only Henry Wallace among all the candidates has stated — and he has said it time and again—that the working people of the country stand in desperate need of a wage increase, and that the great corporations can easily pay higher wages, reduce prices and still keep the profits of pre-war years."

"The Truman Administration has turned itself into a strike-breaking agency and the Congress has made itself a willing auxiliary of the profiteers, obligingly passing laws like the Taft-Hartley Act to assist the corporations in imposing a depression standard of living upon their employees.

"The Mundt Bill, sponsored by the un-American committee, is as example of how far the Wall Street parties are willing to go in imposing corporation mastery over the American people. This bill, which has been hidden from the people by a conspiracy of silence in the public press, would subvert the American Constitution and Bill of Rights in order to guarantee that ordinary Americans shall not successfully challenge Wall Street's rule of their country.

It is because Henry Wallace's program on wages, on prices, on the minimum wage, stand foursquare with the needs and demands of organized labor that he is hated by the men who run the corporations, and his program distorted by the big business press," Fitzgerald declared.

"Millions of working people are for Wallace because they know he stands on their side against the profiteers."

283.8
Un33
Cop1

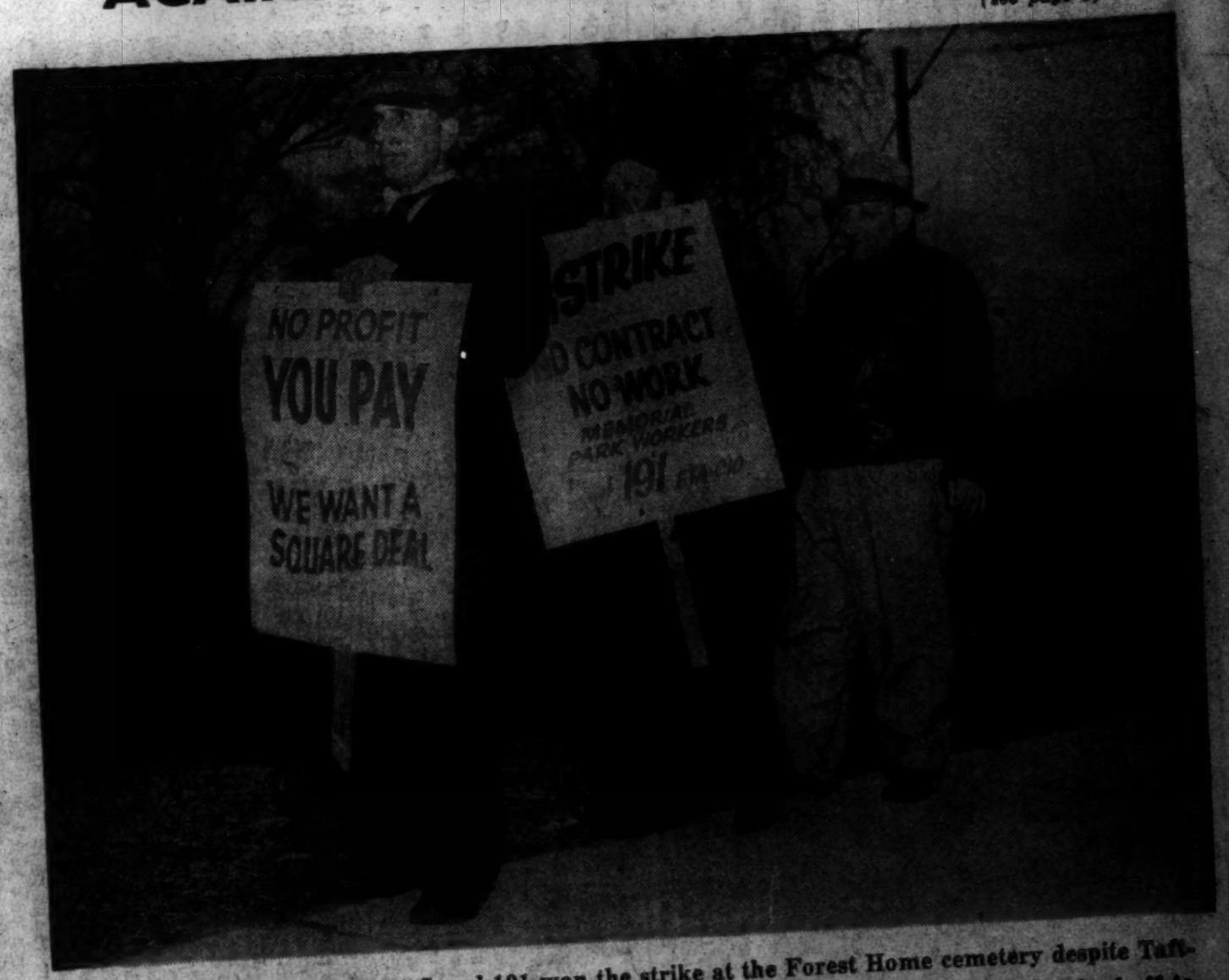
LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
JUN 15 1948
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

FTA NEWS
FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL ... WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA — CIO
Vol. VIII, No. 5 ... Price 5 Cents

Library
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

5,000 FIGHT FOR ... NION AGAINST GROWERS' VIGILANTES

(see page 8)



Solidarity of members of FTA Local 191 won the strike at the Forest Home cemetery despite Taft-Hartley. Gains included a 10 cent an hour raise, time and a half for overtime and the checkoff to replace the former open shop. Seasonal workers will also get increases equal to those of year-round workers — the first time the company has been forced to grant equality of treatment to them.

It Can't Happen Here—Or Can It?

Just in case you don't believe the Mundt-Nixon bill (HR 5852) now before Congress means a police state in America, take a look at this definition of an "organization" from the bill—the kind of organization you can go to jail for belonging to:

"The term 'organization' means an organization, corporation, company, partnership, association, trust, foundation, or fund; and includes a group of persons, whether or not incorporated, permanently or temporarily associated together for joint action on, or advancement of views on, any subject or subjects."

Thus, the mere holding of an opinion in common with one or more people can become a crime punishable by five years in prison and a $5,000 fine—or both.

Or if you're still not satisfied that the backers of the Mundt bill mean business, take a look at this definition of illegal acts, also taken from the bill:

"(A) the disruption of trade and commerce, (B) the inciting of economic, social and racial strife and conflict, (C) the dissemination of propaganda calculated to undermine established government and institutions."

Under the bill one man, the U. S. Attorney-General, can decide when an organization or an individual is guilty of any of these acts, and put that organization's members or that individual in prison for five years.

Have you wired your two Senators at the Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C., to work and vote against HR 5852, the Mundt-Nixon bill?

... Bass has been appointed national co-chairman of Wormen for Wallace and secretary of the credentials committee for the Walace new party convention to be held in Philadelphia July 24-25. She is publisher of a Los Angeles, Calif., newspaper.

Bosses and bankers like to read such newspapers as the N. Y. Journal of Commerce because they give them the facts without propaganda, while the regular dailies give only the propaganda. That's why they must have enjoyed a piece in the Journal the other day that said profits in 1948 will be even higher than '47, a record year itself. And they probably smacked their lips over this little item in the same piece that said: "On the cost side, management is strongly resisting a third round of wage increases. This effort will help to keep profit margins intact."

* * *

On the other hand, they like for you to read the propaganda—like this article in Hearst's American Magazine, entitled "Let's Stop Kicking Business Around." Says the article: "American business is being harassed, bled and even blackjacked under a preposterous, crazy-quilt system of laws . . ." No, the man doesn't mean the Taft-Hartley act—nor is he complaining about the law that killed OPA.

* * *

Conspiracy is a crime under the laws of the U. S. Webster's dictionary defines conspiracy as "a secret combination of men for an evil purpose." The men who run the food trust, the tobacco trust, the steel, auto, electrical trusts are all in a combination to refuse wage increases. They've as much as said so—but do we hear anything about arresting these men or bringing them to trial for conspiracy? Do we?

* * *

National CIO-PAC has changed the title on its election campaign pamphlet from "You've Got a Date in '48" to "Here We Stand." Where we stand, however, isn't quite revealed. For a while it was Eisenhower, but Ike doublecrossed the boys. Balancing acts are tough when there's nothing to balance on.

* * *

The Kroger grocery chain and the Wesco chain have been fined $20,000 for violating anti-trust laws. The case started five years ago, was built on charges of squeezing out small competitors. $20,000 is undoubtedly less than one day's profits for such firms—but that's Tom Clark for you, fearless foe of monopoly.

* * *

Truman has freed two of the Nazi spies who came by submarine to blow up U. S. factories during the war. The British have put Nazi doctors who did vivisection on war prisoners in charge of a big Hamburg hospital. Nazi bankers are back running German banks. How Goebbels and Himmler must regret their hasty act in committing suicide—if they did it.

* * *

Newspaper income from advertising in 1947 was $350,000,000, highest in history and well above the 1946 take of $271,000,000. Two thousand banks sponsored radio news commentators in 1946, six times as many as in 1942. Who says the American press isn't free?

* * *

Famous last words (if the Mundt-Nixon bill becomes law): Your Honor, I didn't mean to be subversive. All I wanted was a wage increase . . .

* * *

Big business is all set to take one-half of the entire U. S. budget ($22 billion) for arms. Most of that is profit—one company charged the U. S. $800 for a machine gun barrel in World War II. Oil companies charged the Navy double for Arabian oil . . . They say in Washington if there was one more lobbyist or one more bottle of liquor in the town the sewers would overflow.

* * *

No wonder Wallace is guilty of that (nowadays) worst of all crimes —"waging a peace offensive." Of course, you can't expect anything better from those mad Russians anyway.

* * *

News stories say that the Republicans in control of Congress have "given up hope" of passing anti-lynch, anti-polltax and anti-discrimination laws this year. Trick is to blame the Southern Democrats who don't mind. The Republicans have absolute majorities in both House and Senate. They could pass 'em if they wanted to.

* * *

This month's prize—a 1947 season pass to the World's Series—goes to Vice-President Wm. A. Hanley of Eli Lilly & Co., who told the Chamber of Commerce convention: "That prices are high, there will be virtually no dispute."